

REMARKS:

Examiner Shankar is thanked for the courtesy of an interview on May 25, 2006, at which time proposed amendments to claim 1 were discussed, as well as U.S. Patent No. 5,300,927 to Arai et al. ("Arai"). The Examiner suggested incorporating the proposed amendments into all independent claims, but indicated that an additional search would be done.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, 23, 24 and 30 as discussed during the interview. Specifically, the independent claims now provide that the first and second input devices are simultaneously operable. Support for the amendment is provided in the specification at page 4, lines 13-16; page 8, lines 3-9; and page 9, lines 1-8. As shown in Figure 8a of the present application, and by way of example, a user may draw a line using the first input device, wherein the first input device directs the position of the pointer A and line. The size of the image (i.e. the line drawn by the first input device) may be decreased as shown in Figure 8b via operation of the second input device, while the user continues operation of the first input device and thereby continues drawing the line, as shown in Figure 8c. Similarly, the size of the image may be increased, as shown in Figure 8d via operation of the second input device, while the user simultaneously continues to operate the first input device, as shown in Figure 8e.

Note that claims 1, 24 and 30 also provides for an instruction set for instructing a change in a display state of the processing object area on the display in response to an operation of the second input device *while the application program is being executed by the first input device*. Thus, simultaneous operation of the two input devices is provided.

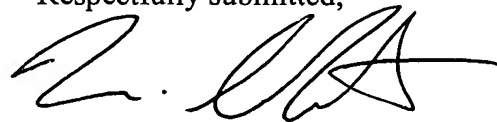
Arai fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed invention, which includes

first and second simultaneously operable input devices. As shown in Figures 4(a)-4(d) of Aria, an image is drawn with one input device. A portion of the image is then selected using a second input device. Then, the state of the selected portion may be changed using the second input device. Only after selecting the portion and altering the image may the user then continue use of the first input device. Operation of the two input devices is not simultaneous, as provided in the present invention. Arai fails to either disclose or suggest simultaneous operation of the two input devices, as discussed during the interview.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention distinguishes over all prior art of record. In light of the amendments and remarks herein, as well as those presented during the interview, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits same.

An Extension of Time for two (2) months is submitted herewith, and hereby authorizes that Account No. 50-0548 be debited the requisite fee for same. It is believed that no other fees are due with this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, then please debit Account No. 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. C. Schrot', written over a horizontal line.

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